

From: Janet Cuellar [the_cuellars@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2001 9:16 AM
To: Food and Drug Administration
Subject: Docket # 00N-1396 and #00D-1598

Food and Drug Administration ,

Dear Sir,

I am extremely concerned that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed regulations that still fail to require labels or safety tests on genetically engineered (GE) food. Labels on GE foods are required in Japan, Russia, and throughout Europe, yet your new proposal continues to deny Americans the right to know what is in our food.

We are a free country and have no need to hide information from our citizens - because our country is all about choice .

Even if you disagree with a potential health effect - we, the customers, still have a right to know what is in the food sold in the grocery store.

Labels must be required to protect the public from potential health effects that could only be traced if GE foods can be identified, yet FDA's "voluntary labeling" guidelines will leave thousands of unlabeled GE foods on our supermarket shelves. Furthermore, the agency's proposed rule only requires companies to notify FDA when bringing GE foods to market, but it fails to require any safety testing.

Even if doctors and scientists have varying opinions, the possibility of the following being true warrants a disclaimer to leave the decision making in the hands of the consumer :

Doctors and scientists have warned about the potential for GE foods to trigger dangerous allergies, change the

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nutritional value of foods, and cause irreversible harm to the environment. FDA appears to be playing politics with our food, disregarding science-based precautions that other countries have implemented.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and insure that GE foods are subject to pre-market testing and labeling. Americans deserve the same protections as the rest of the world.

Thank you for your time.

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